IMT Nuremberg Archives

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International Court of Justice

Com. A.
Take 2-Pg. 8
Meehan
25 June
Grothmann.

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

25 June 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Joseph Tubridy.

THE S. S.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1145 HOURS.)

WERNER GROTHMANN, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty andOmniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

Q What is your name?

A Werner Grothmann.

Q You may sit down.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelckmann, will you please state what you want to prove by this witness?

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DR. PELCKMANN: The witness will testify:

1) Separation and holding secret of the various specialist spheres in the Adjutant's Office of the Reichsfuehrer SS.

2) Himmler's influence on the Waffen SS and its direction.

3) The relation between the Waffen SS and the regular SS.

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Were you Himmler's adjutant?

A Yes.

Q How long were you adjutant and what was the exact name that your office carried?

A Since the 15 of August 1940 I had been Himmler's second adjutant; in August of 1941 I became his first adjutant and in July of 1944 I became chief of the adjutant's office of the Reichsfuehrer SS.

Q What was your work in these positions?

A At first I had to concern myself with all military questions that arose concerning the Waffen SS and after July of 1944 I also handled questions that concerned the reserve army. I had to take care of the daily program and plans and see to the arranging of trips, etc.

Q Did you accompany him on these trips?

A I accompanied him frequently, but not always. Sometimes I went on trips alone to the divisions in his order.

Q What other adjutants did Himmler have beside you and what was their work?

A There was besides me a police adjutant, who handled questions

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concerning the ordinary police and the RSHA. Beginning in July of 1944, there were under my command two adjutants, one for the Waffen SS and one for the reserve army, both were within the chiefs office of the adjutantcy of the Reichsfuehrer SS.

Q Was there an adjutant for the general SS?

A Not in my time and this would have been superfluous as during the time of war there was no General SS and all questions concerning the general SS were handled by the office of the personal secretary.

Q You concerned yourself with SD affairs?

A That was the concern of the Police Adjutant.

Q Himmler was at the same time the Minister of the Interior, did he have a special adjutant in this capacity?

A No, he had no special adjutant for the work connected with this office. All work concerned with this was handled by the Minister's Office.

Q Do you remember when Himmler became secretary of the Interior?

A As I remember, in August, 1943.

Q What matters were handled by the personal division of Himmler?

A This office handled all matters except those that were taken care of by the office of the police adjutant or the chief adjutant.

Q Who reported questions concerning coneentration camps to Himmler?

A These questions were reported on to Himmler by the police adjutant.

Q What explanation can you give for this? Did the concentration camps have anything to do with the Waffen SS?

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A The concentration camps were an entirely independant complex. They were separate from the Waffen SS and all affairs concerning them were handled by the police adjutant.

Q Did all orders that Himmler issued since you held this position as adjutant pass through your hands?

A Yes.

Q By whom was the use of units of the Waffen SS ordered?

A The use of these units was ordered by the higher military leadership staff and also by the Commander in chief of the army and by the army operational staff. The orders concerning them went solely through the hands of army offices under whose command these Waffen SS units were.

Q What was the task of the liaision officer of the Waffen SS or with the adjutant of the Fuehrer's office?

A The liaison officer of the Waffen SS with the Fuehrer's office did not come into being until Fegelein was commanded to take over this position. It was his work to inform the Fuehrer of all matters and positions concerning the Waffen SS in the reports on the situations and the adjutant of the Waffen SS with the Fuehrer's office was there only to report personal information to Himmler.

Q Were you present when Himmler reported to Hitler?

A No, I was never present during any report of Himmler to Hitler. These reports were always carried on in private and we only learned what concerned our immediate work for reasons of secrecy.

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Q On what order was this retaining of secrecy based concerning the keeping of your sphere of work secret and separate from another sphere of work.

A This was based on an order issued by the Fuehrer himself at the beginning of the war at which time he demanded strict secrecy concerning all spheres and circles of work and separation of one from the other. This order was posted in every office.

Q Do you know of orders issued by Himmler to the Waffen SS that violated rules of peace, humanity or international law?

A No, I know of no such orders and Himmler would not have been authorized to issue such orders as the Waffen SS units were amalgamated into the army and were under the same conditions of training and service regulations as the army troops were.

Q What influence did Himmler have on the Waffen SS during the war?

A Himmler was authorized to make decisions concerning personnel and legal matters. He had to see to the care and welfare of the troops. He served in a supervisionary line in the training of the composition of the Waffen SS at home. That is to say that he had the same influence he exercised in the last years of the war when the People's Grenadier Division was composed and placed under him.

Q Is it correct that the People's Grenadier Division was not a Waffen SS Division?

A The People's Grenadier Division was a division of the army.

Q How many divisions did the Waffen SS have at the beginning of the war?

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A None. The first division of the Waffen SS was composed during the first year of the war. That is after the end of the Polish campaign.

Q Can you confirm that there had previously been a troop called the Reserve troop, which was made a Waffen SS troop?

A Before the outbreak of the war there was the so-called SS Reserve troop and the Waffen SS troop was composed of this reserve troop.

Q What reasons led to the strong increase of the Waffen SS? Was this based on any special plan?

A The Fuehrer himself had a plan of bringing the strength of the Waffen SS into a relationship of one to ten of the army. The Reichsfuehrer of the SS wanted to make the Waffen SS as strong as possible even if he had to jepordize the selection regulations that had existed. This existed because any such composition and forming of new divisions meant that valuable material of men, who had experience at the front, would be lost.

Q Was there any relationship between the General SS and the Waffen SS?

A No, there was no relationship between the two organizations, because there was practically no General SS during the war. The members of the Waffen SS did not know the General SS nor did they belong to it at all, therefore, there was no possibility of there being any relationship to them. Moreover the fact that during the last years of war the higher SS and Police leaders were made Generals of the Waffen SS did not change the situation at all. Their tasks were purely police tasks and they had no authority of command whatever, with two exceptions: (1) In case of National

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emergency where the approval for use of the Waffen SS units had to be given by the operational staff main office, and (2) The use of Waffen SS troops for partisan combats where the permission for their employment had to be given by the higher command office of the army.

Q Might a relationship between the two organizations be established from the fact that all people who volunteered for membership in the Waffen SS had been up to that time members of the General SS?

A No, I don't think any relationship can be established through the fact that the greatest number of volunteers came from the General SS. At that time the SS Verfugungstruppe (The reserve troops) also existed and the members of the General SS were practically all amalgamated by the army. The SS troop as such was much too small and only a small part of the members of the Verfugungstruppe was amalgamated by the other units.

Q Had these youngsters, who volunteered for membership in the Waffen SS after leaving school or after their labor service year, been members of the General SS?

A No, they were not because the entry or membership in the General SS was only possible at the age of eighteen.

Q Is this true? Of the young people who were drafted by the Waffen SS, most of them had not been members of the General SS?

A Yes of course because during the war membership in the general SS was not demanded and it was at rest.

Q Was membership in the National Socialist party a decisive factor for being drafted or volunteering into the Waffen SS?

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A No, this membership in the party was neither inquired at the time of entry nor was it demanded. After the time the person entered the SS as a member of the National Socialist Party his membership was considered not to be withheld during the time he was a member of the Waffen SS.

Q Could you consider the Waffen SS a political representative group of the ideology of the National Socialist party?

A No, the Waffen SS represented purely a soldier or military elite organization and that was demonstrated by the following: First, the fact that membership could be voluntary, there was a certain basis of selection. There was a strict adherence to strict disciplince and juridiction. There was no special political training within the Waffen SS beyond that which was taught in other organizations. The characterization of volunteers and selection had to be given up during the war because the Fuehrer had ordered a new composition of the Waffen SS.

Q What attitude did the Waffen SS troops have toward Himmler?

A The majority of the members of the Waffen SS did not know Himmler at all and had only seen him on brief occasions on the visits of Himmler to the front, which he carried out once in a while. Himmler was very often reproached by his troops as misunderstanding the interest of his troops. The speeches that he held once in a while for officers of certain units and troops were very often criticized and reputed because of the future developments he depicted and the use of superlatives and his impulsiveness. On the whole, his ethical ideas were recognized in his speeches but he very often tried to implant police thoughts in the minds

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of the soldiers. This also was rejected by the troops. The instructions that he issued usually concerned just matter of fact things and his ideologies had no influence on the forming of opinions within his troops. On the whole, he was considered as being not concerned with the interests of his troops.

Q Do you know anything of the history of the special staff chief of the Partisan Combat units?

A This was created partly at the time for Obergruppen fuehrer Von dem Bach. This staff was to increase the position and esteem of Von dem Bach in the eyes of the higher SS and police leaders. At the same time Himmler wanted to strengthen his position by creating such a corps command that would be under his jurisdiction.

Q Was von dem Bach also a general order Waffen SS?

A Yes, as far as I know he was given this rank in connection with his appointment as chief of the partisan combat units. Here too the reason that von dem Bach was to be given military distinction was to be able to carry on negotiations with the Commander in Chief of the Army.

Q What connections were there between the chief of staff of the partisan combat units and the Waffen SS?

A None.

Q What were the tasks of this staff?

A The work of this staff was to inform Himmler concerning the entire partisan position in the east and later also in other districts. Secondly,

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he was to send regulations concerning partisan combat and experienced reports to the higher SS and police leaders.

~~CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: We will recess now until 2:15 and will adjourn tonight at 5:15.~~

(THE COMMISSION RECESSED AT 1300 HOURS.)

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(The Commission re-convened at 1415 hours.)

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. McIlwraith

MR. MCILWRAITH: Before we start, I have an announcement to make.

The Commission has now heard nearly 50 witnesses. In order to comply with the request of the Defense to insure a fair and representative hearing for each organization, it may be necessary to hear 20 to 30 more before the 5th of July. The time of hearing of ~~exxhx~~ each witness must therefore be considerably curtailed.

The Commissioners desire to point out that with certain exceptions, the organizations have already been fully described by the witnesses in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Tribunal's order of March 13. They consider~~x~~, therefore, that both the Defense and Prosecution need only regard new matters concerning the organizations in hitherto discussions ~~before~~ before the Commission.

At the discretion of the Commissioners, therefore, the hearing of a witness including cross-examination and re-examination will, in the future, be permitted to continue for not more than 3 hours.

That is all.

DR. PELCKMANN: I will make a statement concerning this decision in written form. I don't think that there exists a basis for this decision.

MR. McILWRAITH: Will you continue?

DIRECT EXAMINATION -- Resumed

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Witness, I have already asked you what the duty of this staff of the chief of the anti-partisan group consisted of.

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A I have already stated that it was the duty of this staff to report to Himmler concerning the stages of this anti-partisan activity and first of all, only of the Western Front, then later, of the other areas. He also had to pass on orders and decrees to the Higher SS and Police Leaders concerning anti-partisan actions. He also had to pass on these orders and experiences to the Higher and Superior SS and Police Leaders and also, in some exceptional cases, this staff was supposed to be used as a staff in those places where especially large actions were planned, or in places where two front sectors met on a border between various front s ectors. The latter only happened once.

Q What was the reason for the anti-partisan actions in the East?

A The fight against the partisans was a fight against an official part of the Red Army in order to safeguard our rear lines.

Q Witness Von dem Bach-Zelewski said that especially bad troops were being used in these actions in order to destroy parts of the population.

A I don't know of any such groups or formations and I do not believe that any such units existed.

Q Is it possible that under this term of more or less bad units, it would mean that there were units which were on parole?

A The term "minderwertig" or not quite up to standard might be applied. Of course, there were some parole units.

Q The group Dirlewanger, was that one of these parole units?

A Yes, the Group Dirlewanger was such a parole unit which at first consisted of former members of concentration camps, and later on it also included men of the German Army who had been court-martialed. They were put into this group in order to justify their parole.

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Q Was this group a part of the Waffen SS or the regular SS?

A It was neither a unit of the Waffen SS or ~~the~~ a unit of the regular SS, ~~unauthorized~~ who had used unauthorized measures

Q Do you know of an order according to which/~~measures by~~ soldiers, against civilians were not supposed to be disciplined?

A No, I don't know of such an order. I do, however, know that in the Waffen SS, ~~xxxxxx~~ unauthorized measures against/the civilian population at times were disciplined severely.

Q What do you know of the so-called Einsatzgroups and Einsatz Commandos?

A The Einsats Groups were formations of the Reich Security Main Office in the East, and I do not know of their activities and their duties in a police nature.

Q Do you know of any units or formations of the Waffen SS that participated in these Einsatz Commandos?

A Yes, I have heard that before I started working on the staff of Himmler that 3 companies of the SS had been transferred to the Einsatz Groups for duty with the Einsatz troops. Their duties were supposed to be, at the time, to protect some of the police commandos and police headquarters, and they were made a part of the Reich Security Main Office.

Q Did Himmler make any statements ~~x~~ to you concerning the Jewish question, especially concerning the solution of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ Jewish question?

A Yes, he made ~~xx~~ statements to us concerning this Jewish question. He stated that according to his opinion, these Jews were supposed to be held during the war, held in ghettos in the east, and after the war, they were to be brought to an undetermined place in order to be settled there. At that time he mentioned such places as Madagascar and the Government General (Poland).

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Q Were you present when Himmler inspected the concentration camps?

A Yes, I was with him sometimes.

Q Was that in connection with your duties as adjutant of the Waffen SS?

A No, these concentration camps did not have anything to do with the Waffen SS. However, when Himmler visited a certain area, he was interested in all the different units in that area and I accompanied him on these visits. He was not only interested in the duties and work of the SS, but interested in the work of all the officers and sections under his command that were in that sector.

Q Were you present when Himmler conversed with the Commanders of these camps?

A No, I never was present when he had these conversations and discussions. First of all, he was always in these conversations alone and I had nothing to do with it.

DR. PELCKMANN: I have no further questions

MR. McILWRAITH: Is there any cross examination?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY LT. COL. GRIFFITH JONES:

Q How old are you?

A 30 years of age.

Q For what reason did you join the SS?

A I entered the SS because I saw in it an organization which was to lead Germany out of the unhappy position it was in as a result of the last war.

Q In addition to that, it was the elite of the German Army, was it not?

A Yes, that's what it became later.

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Q And it was generally regarded by everybody that that was so?

A That is very hard to say, but the enemy especially considered it as the elite. We personally did not use that term since we did not want any discussions or difficulties between the Army and the SS.

Q Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear. The general bulk of the German Army recognized the SS as the elite, did they not?

A So far as I know, yes.

Q And would I be right in saying that although a number of men were drafted into the SS toward the end of the war, they were pleased and proud to become members of that group?

A Yes.

Q I want to ask you a little about Himmler's influence on the SS. Did you accompany Himmler when he went to speak at Posen in October, 1943?

A Yes, I was in Posen.

Q He spoke then to his major generals, didn't he, his SS major generals?

A Yes, he spoke to a part of his higher SS leaders. There were hardly any members of the Waffen SS present.

Q How many SS divisions were there on the eastern front in 1943?

A It is very hard to say from memory. I cannot remember the number exactly, but I would say about 6 to 8. May I ask about what time in 1943?

Q Perhaps -- let me ask you a different question. Can you say how many SS divisions were serving, at any time, on the eastern front between 1941 to 1943, both years inclusive?

A I would estimate this number to be about 15 to 20.

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Q Do you remember Himmler saying this to his major generals on that occasion? I am afraid I have not got a copy of this document in German. It might help the interpreter if he had the German copy.

I quote from PS-1919, US-170:

"What happens to a Russian or to a Czech does not interest me in the slightest. What the nations can offer in the way of good blood of our type we will take, if necessary, by kidnapping their children and raising them here with us. Whether nations live in prosperity or starve to death interests me only insofar as we need them as slaves for our Kultur; otherwise, it is of no interest to me. Whether 10,000 Russian females fall down from exhaustion while digging an anti-tank ditch interests me only insofar as the anti-tank ditch for Germany is finished. We shall never be rough and heartless when it is not necessary, that is clear."

Did you hear him say that?

A I only was present at part of this speech since my organizational duties made it impossible for me to stay there all the time.

Q You say -- you told us that Himmler never issued any orders which violated the rules of war and the laws of humanity?

A No, he did not give any such orders for theWaffen SS.

Q Do you call watching 10,000 Russian females fall down from exhaustion while digging an anti-tank ditch for the Germans as following in the laws of humanity or as being generally recognized?

A That is not a part of an order of Himmler but a part of a speech.

Q So that we can say that Himmler did make speeches to the Waffen SS advocating measures which were breaches of the laws of war and the laws of humanity?

A I have to point out again that this was not a speech to the Waffen SS.

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Q What other SS major generals were there?

A At that meeting were the superior SS and Police leaders, as well as the main office chiefs.

Q Are you saying that none of the SS group at that meeting were commanding Waffen divisions of the SS?

A I don't remember any of them, and in addition, I don't think that it was possible to recall any of the divisional commanders from their divisions for that speech.

Q Alright. /In the next speech that I will quote there is no question as to whom he was speaking. Were you present at Charkov when he spoke there in 1943?

A I was in Charkov but was not present during the entire speech.

Q He spoke there [redacted] to the commanding officers of three SS divisions?

A That is correct.

Q That's not only the generals, but the commanding generals of every SS unit, wasn't it?

A They were, as far as I remember, the regional commanders and the independent battalion commanders.

Q Let's see what he says there?

MR. McILWRAITH: Is this the same document?

COL. JONES: It's the same document, page 11 of the English translation.

BY COL. JONES:

Q Do you remember hearing him say this, when speaking of the territories that the Germans were occupying.

"Either the people must be deported and will be used in Germany as labor for Germany, or they will just die in battle."

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A I don't personally remember any such thing. However, it is possible that he did say it.

Q Do you remember him speaking about the Jews and I quote:

"Anti-Semitism is actually the same as delousing. Getting rid of the lice is not a question of ideology, it is a matter of cleanliness. In just the same way, anti-semitism, for us, has not been a question of ideology, but a matter of cleanliness, which now will soon have been dealt with. We shall soon be deloused. We have only 20,000 lice left, and then the matter is finished with in the whole of Germany."

What was his purpose of saying that to all the regional commanders in 3 Waffen SS divisions?

A I pointed out already this morning thatduring his speeches he took the opportunity to speak to the troops about general conditions and especially concerning conditions which did not have anything to do with the various units.

Q Are you saying that he was saying that to his commanding officers of 3 divisions because those were matters which did not pertain to those divisions?

A Yes, that is correct. I want to say that he took the occasion of these speeches to inform the troops of general conditions whcih did not touch the troops as such.

Q Can you offer any explanation as to why he should have wanted to inform all the SS of what was happening, and practically nobody we have heard during this trial has heard anything about it at all?

A The duties which Himmler touched in this speech were among his duties. And especially, it was his desire, his wish, that in the future these various duties of his would be combined in one organization or one group.

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Q Well let's turn to an occasion where he is actually talking to members of the Waffen SS. Were you present at his Day of Metz speech in May, 1943?

A I was not in Metz in 1943.

Q It is called the "Day of Metz" . I am not quite clear as to where it was, but he was speaking to the officers of the SS Leibstandarte.

A I believe that was in the year 1941. I was not present at that time.

Q Very well, you say it was in 1941. Let me read a few lines to you. This is document PS-1918, US-304.

"Very frequently the member of the Waffen-SS thinks about the deportation of this people here. These thoughts come to me today when watching the very difficult work performed by the Security Police, supported by your men who help them a great deal."

Then he goes on explaining the kind of work, that is, he says:

"Exactly the same thing happened in Poland in weather 40° below zero where we had to haul away thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands; where we had to have the toughness -- you should hear this but also forget it again immediately -- to shoot thousands of leading Poles, where we had to have the toughness, otherwise they would have taken revenge on us later."

Was that what the Waffen SS was doing, and in particular, the Leibstandarte of Adolf Hitler, hauling away hundreds of thousands and shooting thousands?

A I already said this morning, he gave these troops information about something that they didn't have anything to do with, and since he only spoke from very short notes, he exaggerated quite a bit. These speeches, in general, were not considered to be 100% correct by the troops.

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Q Yes, but he said that the "kind work that the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler is helping the Security Police a great deal". Why should he say that if it isn't true?

A He stated himself that it was the duty of the Security Police and that evidently, some units of the Leibstandarte, the SS, aided them. The only kind of aid that could have been given in this case was that perhaps guards were put at their disposal. The troops themselves had nothing to do with duties like this.

Q Why should he say, and I ask for the last time, that the Leibstandarte had been assisted in that work?

A It is possible that he made available, for this occasion, vehicles and other equipment.

Q Now, I just want to ask you about one further matter. I just want you to look at that, or it will be read to you. It is a short passage from the minutes of a conversation between Goering and Mussolini in October, 1942. The number of the document is D-729, GB-281.

"The Reichmarshal then described GermanY's method in fighting the partisans. To begin with the entire livestock and all food-stuff is taken away from the areas concerned, so as to deny the partisans all sources of food. Men and women are taken away to labor camps, the children to childrens' camps, and the villages burnt down. Thus, for example, had the railways in the vast wooded areas of Bialowiza been safeguarded. Should attacks occur, then the entire male population of villages would be lined up on one side and the women on the other side. The women would be told that all the men would be shot, unless they (the women) indicated which of the men did not belong to the village. In order to save their men, the women always pointed out the stranger. Germany had experienced that, generally speaking, soldiers were no use in carrying out such measures. Members of the Party discharged their tasks much more harshly and efficiently. For the

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same reason, armies that were strengthened by a political creed such as the German (or the Russian) fought much more energetically than others. The SS, the guard of the old fighters of the Party, who have personal ties with the Fuehrer and who form a special elite, confirm this principle."

Why should Goering have said that if people who were fighting the partisans had nothing to do with the SS?

A This statement is purely a propaganda statement and it is especially proved by the fact that the connection which is mentioned here, and the fact that it was an elite selection, was only talk of the first divisions and they were never used for anti-partisan activities but used on the front line.

Q Do you call that good propaganda? Is that the sort ofpropaganda that you approve of?

A I don't approve or like any kind of propaganda.

COL. JONES: I have no further questions.

MR. McILWRAITH: Is there any other cross-examination? Do you wish to re-examine Dr. Pelckmann?

DR. PELCKMANN: No, no further questions.

MR. McILWRAITH: Then the witness may adjourn and we will have the next witness.

(The Commission adjourned at 1510 hours.)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct account of the testimony of WERNER GROTHMANN, taken on 25 June 1946.

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COMMISSIONER:

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

25 June 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Joseph Tubridy.

THE S.S.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1145 HOURS)

WERNER GROTHMANN, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

Q What is your name?

A Werner Grothmann.

Q You may sit down.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelckmann, will you please state what you want to prove by this witness?

DR. PELCKMANN: The withess will testify:

1) Separation and holding secret of the various specialist spheres in the Adjutant's Office of the Reichsfuehrer SS.

2) Himmler's influence on the Waffen SS and its direction.

3) The relation between the Waffen SS and the regular SS.

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Were you Himmler's adjutant?

A Yes.

Q How long were you adjutant and what was the exact name that your office carried?

A Since the 15th of August 1940 I had been Himmler's second adjutant: in August of 1941 I became his first adjutant and in July of 1944 I became chief of the adjutant's office of the Reichsfuehrer SS.

Q What was your work in these positions?

A At first I had to concern myself with allmilitary questions that

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arose concerning the Waffen SS and after July of 1944 I also handled questions that concerned the reserve army. I had to take care of the daily program and plans and see to the arranging of trips, etc.

Q Did you accompany him on these trips?

A I accompanied him frequently, but not always. Sometimes I went on trips alone to the divisions in his order.

Q What other adjutants did Himmler have beside you and what was their work?

A There was besides me a police adjutant, who handled questions concerning the ordinary police and the RSHA. Beginning in July of 1944, there were under my command two adjutants, one for the Waffen SS and one for the reserve army, both were within the chief's office of the adjutantcy of the Reichsfuehrer SS;

Q Was there an adjutant for the general SS?

A Not in my time and this would have been superfluous as during the time of war there was no General SS and all questions concerning the general SS were handled by the office of the personal secretary.

Q You concerned yourself with SD affairs?

A That was the concern of the Police Adjutant.

Q Himmler was at the same time the Minister of the Interior, did he have a special adjutant in this capacity?

A No, he had no special adjutant for the work connected with this office. All work concerned with this was handled by the Minister's Office.

Q Do you remember when Himmler became secretary of the Interior?

A As I remember, in August 1943.

Q What matters were handled by the personal division of Himmler?

A This office handled all matters except those that were taken care of by the office of the police adjutant or the chief adjutant.

Q Who reported questions concerning concentration camps to Himmler?

A These questions were reported on to Himmler by the police adjutant.

Q What explanations can you give for this? Did the concentration camps have anything to do with the Waffen SS.

A The concentration camps were an entirely independent complex.

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They were separate from the Waffen SS and all affairs concerning them were handled by the police adjutant.

Q Did all orders that [illegible] issued since you held this position as adjutant pass through your hands?

A Yes.

Q By whom was the use of units of the Waffen SS ordered?

A The use of these units was ordered by the higher military leadership staff and also by the Commander in Chief of the Army and by the army operational staff. The orders concerning them went solely through the hands of army offices under whose command these Waffen SS units were.

Q What was the task of the liaison officer of the Waffen SS or with the adjutant of the Fuehrer's offi ce?

A The liaison officer of the Waffen SS with the Fuehrer's office did not come into being until Fegelein was commanded to take over this position. It was his work to inform the Fuehrer of all matters and positions concerning the Waffen SS in the reports on the situations and the adjutant of the Waffen SS with the Fuehrer's office was there only to report personal information to Himmler.

Q Were you present when Himmler reported to Hitler?

A No, I was never present during any report of Himmler to Hitler. These reports were always carried on in private and we only learned what concerned our immediate work for reasons of secrecy.

Q On what order was this retaining of secrecy based concerning the keeping of your sphere of work secret and separate from another sphere of work?

A This was based on an order issued by the Fuehrer himself at the beginning of the war at which time he demanded strict secrecy concerning all spheres and circles of work and separation of one from the other. This order was posted in every office.

Q Do you know of orders issued by Himmler to the Waffen SS that violated rules of peace, humanity or international law?

A No, I know of no such orders and Himmler would not have been authorized to issue such orders as the Waffen SS units were amalgamated into the army and were under the same conditions of training and service regulations as the army troops were.

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Q What influence did Himmler have on the Waffen SS during the war?

A Himmler was authorized to make decisions concerning personnel and legal matters. He had to see to the care and welfare of the troops. He served in a supervisionary line in the training of the composition of the Waffen SS at home. That is to say that he had the same influence he exercised in the last years of the war when the People's Grenadier Division was composed and placed under him.

Q Is it correct that the People's Grenadier Division was not a Waffen SS Division?

A The People's Grenadier Division was a division of the army.

Q How many divisions did the Waffen SS have at the beginning of the war?

A Non. The first division of the Waffen SS was composed during the first year of the war. That is after the end of the Polish campaign.

Q Can you confirm that there had previously been a troop called the Reserve troop, which was made a Waffen SS troop?

A Before the outbreak of the war there was the so-called SS Reserve troop and the Waffen SS troop was composed of this reserve troop.

Q What reasons led to the strong increase of the Waffen SS? Was this based on any special plans?

A The Fuehrer himself had a plan of bringing the strength of the Waffen SS into a relationship of one to ten of the army. The Reichsfuehrer of the SS wanted to make the Waffen SS as strong as possible even if he had to jeopardize the selection regulations that had existed. This existed because any such composition and forming of new divisions meant that valuable material of men, who had experience at the front, would be lost.

Q Was there any relationship between the General SS and the Waffen SS?

A No, there was no relationship between the two organizations, because there was practically no General SS during the war. The members of the Waffen SS did not know the General SS nor did they belong to it at all, therefore, there was no possibility of there being any relationship to them. Moreover the fact that during the last years of war the higher SS and Police leaders were made Generals of the Waffen SS did not change the situation at all. Their tasks were purely police tasks and they had no authority of command whatever, with two exceptions: (1) In case of National

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emergency where the approval for use of the Waffen SS units had to be given by the operational staff main office, and (2) The use of Waffen SS troops for partisan combats where the permission for their employment had to be given by the higher command office of the army.

Q Might a relationship between the two organizations be established from the fact that all people who volunteered for membership in the Waffen SS had been up to that time members of the General SS?

A No, I don't think any relationship can be established through the fact that the greatest number of volunteers came from the General SS. At that time the SS Verfungungstruppe (the reserve troops) also existed and the members of the General SS were practically all amalgamated by the army. The SS troop as such was much too small and only a small part of the members of the Verfugungstruppe was amalgamated by the other units.

Q Had these youngsters, who volunteered for membership in the Waffen SS after leaving school or after their labor service year, been members of the General SS?

A No, they were not because the entry or membership in the General SS was only possible at the age of eighteen.

Q Is this true? Of the young people who were drafted by the Waffen SS, most of them had not been members of the General SS?

A Yes of course because during the war membership in the general SS was not demanded and it was at rest.

Q Was membership in the National Socialist party a decisive factor for being drafted or volunteering into the Waffen SS?

A No, this membership in the party was neither inquired at the time of entry nor was it demanded. After the time the person entered the SS as a member of the National Socialist Party his membership was considered not to be withheld during the time he was a member of the Waffen SS.

Q Could you consider the Waffen SS a political representative group of the ideology of the National Socialist Party?

A No, the Waffen SS represented purely a soldier or military elite organization and that was demonstrated by the following: First, the fact that membership could be voluntary, there was a certain basis of selection. There

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was a strict adherence to strict discipline and jurisdiction. There was no special political training within the Waffen SS beyond that which was taught in other organizations. The characterization of volunteers and selection had to be given up during the war because the Fuehrer had ordered a new composition of the Waffen SS.

Q What attitude did the Waffen SS troops have toward Himmler?

A The majority of the members of the Waffen SS did not know Himmler at all and had only see him on brief occasions on the visits of Himmler to the front, which he carried out once in a while. Himmler was very often reproached by his troops as misunderstanding the interest of his troops. The speeches tha he held once in a while for officers of certain units and troops were very often criticized and reputed because of the future developments he depicted and the use of superlatives and his impulsiveness. On the whole, his ethical ideas were recognized in his speeches but he very often tried to implant police thoughts in the minds of the soldiers. This was also rejected by the troops. The instructions that he issued usually concerned just matter of fact things and his ideologies had no influence on the forming of opinions within his troops. On the whole, he was considered as being not concerned with the interests of his troops.

Q Do you know anything of the history of the special staff chief of the Partisan Combar units?

A This was created partly at the time for Obergruppenfuehrer von dem Bach. This staff was to increase the position and esteem of von dem Bach in the eyes of the higher SS and police leaders. At the same time Himmler wanted to strengthen his position by creating such a corps command that would be under his jurisdiction.

Q Was von dem Bach also a general order Waffen SS?

A Yes, as far as I know he was given this rank in connection with his appointment as chief of the partisan combat units. Here too the reason that von dem Bach was to be given military distinction was to be able to carry on negotiations with the Commander in Chief of the Army.

Q What connections were there between the chief of staff of the partisan combat units and the Waffen SS?

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A None.

Q What were the tasks of this staff?

A The work of this staff was to inform Himmler concerning the entire partisan position in the east and later also in other districts. Secondly, he was to send regulations concerning partisan combat and experienced reports to the higher SS and police leaders.

(THE COMMISSION RECESSED AT 1300 HOURS.)

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(THE COMMISSION RE-CONVENED AT 1415 HOURS.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION - Resumed

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Witness, I have already ask you what the duty of this staff of the chief of the anti-partisan group consisted of.

A I have already stated that it was the duty of this staff to report to Himmler concerning the stages of this anti-partisan activity and first of all, only the Western Front, then later, of the other areas. He also had to pass on orders and decrees to the Higher SS and Police Leaders concerning anti-partisan actions. He also had to pass on these orders and experiences to the Higher and Superior SS and Police Leaders and also, in some exceptional cases, this staff was supposed to be used as a staff in those places where especially large actions were planned, or in places where two front sectors met on a border between various front sectors. The latter only happened once.

Q What was the reason for the anti-partisan actions in the East?

A The fight against the partisans was a fight against an official part of the Red Army in order to safeguard our rear lines.

Q Witness von dem Bach-Zelewski said that especially bad troops were being used in these actions in order to destroy parts of the population.

A I don't know of any such groups or formations and I do not believe that any such units existed.

Q Is it possible that under this term of more or less bad units, it would mean that there were units which were on parole?

A The term "minderwertig" or not quite up to standard might be applied. Of course, there were some parole units.

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Q The group Dirlewanger, was that one of these parole units?

A Yes, the Group Dirlewanger was such a parole unit which at first consisted of former members of concentration camps, and later on it also included men of the German Army who had been court-martialed. They were put into this group in order to justify their parole.

Q Was this group a part of the Waffen SSor the regular SS?

A It was neither a unit of the Waffen SS nor a unit of the regular SS.

Q Do you know of an order according to which soldiers who had used unauthorized measures against civilians were not supposed to be disciplined?

A No, I don't know of such an order. I do, however, know that in the Waffen SS, unauthorized measures against the civilian population at times were disciplined severely.

Q What do you know of the so-called Einsatzgroups and Einsatz Commandos?

A The Einsatz Groups were formations of the Reich Security Main Office in the East, and I do not know of their activities and their duties in a police nature.

Q Do you know of any units or formations of the Waffen SS that participated in these Einsatz Commandos?

A Yes, I have heard that before I started working on the staff of Himmler that 3 companies of the SS had been transferred to the Einsatz Groups for duty with the Einsatz troops. Their duties were supposed to be, at the time, to protect some of the police commandos and police headquarters, and they were made a part of the Reich Security Main Office.

Q Did Himmler make any statements to you concerning the Jewish question, especially concerning the solution of the Jewish question?

A Yes, he made statements to us concerning this Jewish question. He stated that according to his opinion, these Jews were supposed to be held during the war, held in ghettos in the east, and after the war, they were to be brought to an undetermined place in order to be settled there. At that time he mentioned such places as Madagascar and the Government General (Poland).

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Q. Were you present when Himmler inspected the concentration camps ?

A. Yes, I was with him sometimes.

Q. Was that in connection with your duties as adjutant of the Waffen SS ?

A. No, these concentration camps did not have anything to do with the Waffen SS. However, when Himmler sivisted a certain area, he was interested in all the different units in that area and I accompanied him on these visits He was not only interested in the duties and work of the SS, but interested in the work of all the officers and sections under his command that were in that sector.

Q. Were you present when Himmler conversed with the Commanders of these camps ?

A. No, I never was present when he had these conversations and discussions First of all, he always in these conversations alone and I had nothing to do with it.

DR. FELCKMANN: I have no further questions.

MR. McILWRAITH: Is there any cross examination ?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY LT. COL. GRIFFITH JONES:

Q. How old are you ?

A. 30 years of age.

Q. For what reason did you join the SS ?

A. I entered the SS because I saw in it an organization which was to lead Germany out of the unhappy position it was in as a result of the last war.

Q. In addition to that, it was the elite of the German army, was it not ?

A. That's what it became later, yes

Q. And it was generally regarded by everybody that that was so ?

A. That is very hard to say, but the enemy especially considered it as the elite. We personaly did not use that term since we did not want any discussions or difficulties between the Army and the SS.

Q. Perhaps I did not make myself quite clear. The general bulk of the German Armyrecognized the SS as the elite, did they not ?

A. So far as I know, yes.

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Q. And would I be right in saying that although a number of men were drafted into the SS toward the end of the war, they were pleased and proud to become members of that group ?

A. Yes.

Q. I want to ask you a little about Himmler's influence on the SS. Did you accompany Himmler when he went to speak at Posen in October, 1943 ?

A. Yes, I was in Posen.

Q. He spoke then to his major generals, didn't he, his SS major generals ?

A. Yes, he spoke to a part of his higher SS leaders. There were hardly any members of the Waffen SS present.

Q. How many SS divisions were there on the eastern front in 1943 ?

A. It is very hard to say from memory. I cannot remember the number exactly, but I would say about 6 to 8. May I ask about what time in 1943 ?

Q. Perhaps -- let me ask you a different question. Can you say how many SS divisions were serving, at any time, on the eastern front between 1941 to 1943, both years inclusive ?

A. I would estimate this number to be about 15 to 20.

Q. Do you remember Himmler saying this to his major generals on that occasion ? I am afraid I have not got a copy of this document in German. It might help the interpreter if he had the German copy.

I quote from PS- 1919, US-170 :

"What happens to a Russian or to a Czech does not interest me in the slightest. What the nations can offer in the way of good blood of our type we will take, if necessary, by kidnapping their children and raising them here with us. Whether nations live in prosperity or starve to death interests me only insofar as we need them as slaves for our Kultur; other wise, it is of no interest to me. Whether 10,000 Russian females fall down from exhaustion while digging an anti-tank ditch interests me only insofar as the anti-tank ditch for Germany is finished. We shall never be rough and heartless when it is not necessary, that is clear."

Did you hear him say that ?

A. I only was present at part of this speech since my organizational duties made it impossible for me to stay there all the time.

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Q. You say -- you told us that Himmler never issued any orders which violated the rules of war and the laws of humanity ?

A. No, he did not give any such orders for the Waffen SS.

Q. Do you call watching 10,000 Russian females fall down from exhaustion while digging anti-tank ditch for the Germans as following in the laws of humanity or as being generally recognized ?

A. That is not a part of an order of Himmler but a part of a speech.

Q. So that we can say that Himmler did make speeches to the Waffen SS advocating measures which were breaches of the laws of war and the laws of humanity ?

A. I have to point out again that this was not a speech to the Waffen SS

Q. What other SS major generals were there ?

A. At that meeting were the superior SS and Police leaders, as well as the main office chiefs.

Q. Are you saying that none of the SS group at that meeting were commanding Waffen divisions of the SS ?

A. I don't remember any of them, and in addition, I don't think that it was possible to recall any of the divisional commanders from their divisions for that speech.

Q. Alright. In next speech that I will quote there is no question as to whom he was speaking. Were you present at Charkov when he spoke there in 1943 ?

A. I was in Charkov but was not present during the entire speech.

Q. He spoke there to the commanding officers of three SS divisions ?

A. That is correct.

Q. That's not only the generals, but the commanding generals of every SS unit, wasn't it ?

A. They were, as far as I remember, the regional commanders and the independent battalion commanders.

Q. Let's see what he says there.

MR. McILRAITH: Is this the same document ?

COL. JONES: It's the same document, page 11 of the English translation.

BY COL. JONES:

Q. Do you remember hearing him say this, when speaking of the territories that the Germans were occupying :

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"Either the people must be deported and will be used in Germany as labor for Germany, or they will just die in battle."

A. I don't personally remember any such thing. However, it is possible that he said it.

Q. Do you remember him speaking about the Jews and I quote:

"Anti-Semitism is actually the same as delousing. Getting rid of the lice is not a question of ideology, t is a matter of cleanliness. In just the same way, anti-semitism, for us, has not been a question of ideology, but a matter of cleanliness, which now will soon have been dealt with. We shall soon be deloused, We have only 20,000 lice left, and then the matter is finished with in the whole of Germany."

What was his purpose of saying that to all the regional commanders in 3 Waffen SS divisions ?

A. I pointed out already this morning that during his speeches he took the opportunity to speak to the troops about general conditions and especially concerning conditions which did not have anything to do with the various units.

Q. Are you saying that he was saying that to his commanding officers of 3 divisions because those were items which did not pertain to those divisions ?

A. Yes, that is correct. I want to say that he took the occasion of these speeches to inform the troops of general conditions which did not touch the troops as such.

Q. Can you offer any explanation as to why he should have wanted to inform all the SS of what was happening and practically nobody we have heard during this trial has heard anything about it at all ?

A. The duties which Himmler touched in this speech were among his duties. And especially, it was his desire, his wish, that in the future these various duties of his would be combined in one organization or one group.

Q. Well, let's turn to an occasion where he is actually talking to members of the Waffen SS. Were you present at his Day of Metz speech in May, 1943 ?

A. I was not in Metz in 1943.

Q. It is called the "Day of Metz". I am not quite clear as to where it was, but he was speaking to the officers of the SS Leibstandarte.

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A. I believe that was in the year 1941. I was not present at that time.

Q. Very well, you say it was in 1941. Let me read a few lines to you. This is document PS-1918, US-304.

"Very frequently the member of the Waffen SS thinks about the deportation of this people here. These thoughts come to me today when watching the very difficult work performed by the Security Police, supported by your men who help them a great deal."

Then he goes on explaining the kind of work, that is, he says :

"Exactly the same thing happened in Poland in weather 40° below zero where we had to haul away thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands; where we had to have the toughness -- you should hear this but also forget it again immediately -- to shoot thousands of leading Poles, where we had to have the toughness, otherwise they would have taken revenge on us later."

Was that what the Waffen SS was doing, and in particular, the Leibstandarte of Adof Hitler, hauling away hundreds of thousands and shooting thousands ?

A. I already said this morning, he gave these troops information about something that they didn't have anything to do with, and since he only spoke from very short notes, he exaggerated quite a bit. These speeches, in general, were not considered to be 100 % correct by the troops.

Q. Yes, but he said that the "kind of work that the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler is helping the Security Police a great deal". Why shoud he say that if it isn't true ?

A. He stated himself that it was the duty of the Security Police and that evidently, some units of the Leibstandarte, the SS, aided them. The only kind of aid that could have been given in this case was that perhaps guards were put at their disposal. The troops themselves had nothing to do with duties like this.

Q. Why should he say, and I ask for the last time, that the Leidstandarte had been assisted in that work ?

A. It is possible that he made available, for this occasion, vehicles and other equipment.

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Q. Now, I just want to ask you about onefurther matter. I just want you to look at that, or it will be read to you. It is a short passage from the minutes of a conversation between Goering and Mussolini in October 1942. The number of the document is D-729, GB-281.

"The Reichmarshal then described Germany&s method in fighting the partisans. To begin with the entire livestock and all food-stuff is taken away from the areas concerned, so as to deny the partisans all sources of food. Men and women are taken away to labor camps, the children to childrens' camps, and the villages burnt down. Thus, for example, had the railways in the vast wooded areas of Bialowiza been safeguarded. Should attacks occur, then the entire male population of villages would be lined up on one side and the women on the other side. The women would be told that all the men would be sh t, unless they (the women) indicated which of the men did not belong to the village. In order to save their men, the women always pointed out the stranger. Germany had experienced that, generally speaking, soldiers were no use in carrying out such measures. Members of the Party discharged their tasks much more harshly and efficiently. For the same reason, armies that were strengthened by a political creed such as the German (or the Russian) fought much more energetically than others. The SS, the guard of the old fighters of the Party, who have personal ties with the Fuehrer and who form a special elite, confirm this rpinciple."

Why should Goering have said that if people who were fighting the partisans had nothing to do with the SS ?

A. This statement is purely a propaganda statement and it is especially proved by the fact that the connection which is mentioned here, and the fact that it was an elite selection, wasonly talk of the first divisions and they were never used for anti-partisan activities but used on the front line.

Q. Do you call that good propaganda ? Is that the sort of propaganda that you approve of ?

A. I don't approve of or like any kind of propaganda.

COL. JONES: I have no further questions.

MR. McILWRAITH: Is there any other cross-examination ? Do you wish to re-examine Dr. Pelckmann ?

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DR. PELCKMANN: No, no further questions.

MR. McILWRAITH: Then the witness may adjourn and we will have the next witness.

(The Commission adjourned at 1510 hours).

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct account of the testimony of WERNER GROTHMANN, taken on 25 June 1946.

Piilani A. Ahuna
reporter

Alice Meehan
reporter

Joseph F. Tubridy
commissioner

H0976-0038

Amtliche Niederschrift der Zeugenaussagen über angeklagte Organisationen vor der vom Internationalen Militärgerichtshof, am 13. März 1946, gemäss Paragraph 4, ernannten Kommission.

Dienstag, den 25. Juni 1946.

Beauftragter: CAPTAIN JOSEPH TUBRIDY

Organisation: SS

Zeuge: Werner Grothmann

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Herr Zeuge, erheben Sie ihren rechten Arm und sprechen Sie mir folgenden Eid nach:

"Ich schwöre bei Gott dem Allmächtigen und Allwissenden, dass ich die reine Wahrheit sagen, nichts verschweigen und nichts hinzufügen werde."

(Der Zeuge spricht den Eid nach).

Sie können sich setzen.

DURCH DR.PELCKMANN:

Der Zeuge Grothmann soll über folgendes aussagen: Trennung und Geheimhaltung der verschiedenen Sachgebiete in der Adjutantur des Reichsführers SS und Himmler's Einfluss auf die Waffen-SS und ihre Führung sowie Verhältnis der Waffen-SS zur allgemeinen SS.

F: Herr Zeuge, Sie waren Adjutant Himmler's?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wie war die genaue Bezeichnung Ihrer Dienststelle und seit wann waren Sie da?

A: Ich war seit 15. August 1940 zweiter Adjutant und seit August 1941 erster Adjutant des Reichsführers SS.

F: Welches waren Ihre Aufgaben in didser Stellung?

A: Ich hatte zuerst sämtliche militärische Aufgaben zu erledigen, also die Bearbeitung des Komplexes der Waffen-SS; nach dem 20. Juli 1944 dazu den Sektor des Ersatzheeres, das Himmler unterstellt wurde. Ferner die Bearbeitung des Tagesprogramms, Vorbereitung von Reisen usw.

F: Haben Sie Himmler auch auf seinen Reisen begleitet?

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A: Ich habe ihn öfters begleitet, allerdings nicht immer. Manchmal reiste ich allein, zu den Divisionen.

F: Welche Adjutanten gab es ausser Ihnen noch bei Himmler und was waren ihre Aufgaben?

A: Es gab ausser mir den Polizei-Adjutanten. Aufgabe des Polizei-Adjutanten war das gesamte Sachgebiet der Ordnungspolizei und des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes. Ab Juli 1944 gab es mir unterstellt, einen Adjutanten der Waffen-SS, zuständig für das Gebiet der Waffen-SS und einen Adjutanten für das Ersatzheer, zuständig für das Gebiet des Ersatzheeres; beide letzteren in der Chefadjutantur.

F: Gab es einen Adjutanten für die Allgemeine SS?

A: Zu meiner Zeit gab es keinen Adjutanten für die Allgemeine SS. Diss war überflüssig, weil eine Allgemeine SS im Krieg praktisch nicht bestand.
Anfallende Fragen, die Allgemeine SS betreffend, wurden von dem persönlichen Sekretariat bearbeitet.

F: Und welcher Adjutant bearbeitete die Angelegenheiten des SD?

A: Das war Angelegenheit des Polizei-Adjutanten.

F: Himmler war doch auch Minister des Innern. Hatte er dafür einen besonderen Adjutanten?

A: Nein, er hatte in dieser Eigenschaft keinen Adjutanten. Die anfallenden Aufgaben wurden vom Ministerbüro erledigt.

F: Wissen Sie noch, seit wann Himmler Innenminister war?

A: Meiner Erinnerung nach seit August 1943.

F: Welche Sachen wurden durch das persönliche Sekretariat Himmler's erledigt?

A: Diese Dienststelle bearbeitet sämtliche Angelegenheiten ausser denen, die wie ich vorher sagte, von der Polizei-Adjutantur oder der Chef-Adjutantur bearbeitet wurden.

F: Von wem wurden zum Beispiel KZ-Angelegenheiten Himmler vorgetragen?

A: Die KZ-Angelegenheiten wurden vom Polizei-Adjutanten vorgetragen.

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F: Wie ist das zu erklären, Hatten denn die Konzentrationslager nichts mit der Waffen-SS zu tun?

A: Die Konzentrationslager waren ein selbstständiger Komplex, sie waren von der Waffen-SS getrennt. Dieser Komplex wurde von Polizei-Adjutanten bearbeitet.

F: Sind die Befehle Himmlers an die Waffen-SS, seitdem Sie diese Stellung als Adjutant innehatten, durch Ihre Hände gegangen und zwar alle?

A: Jawohl.

F: Wie und von wem wurde der Einsatz der Verbände der Waffen-SS befohlen?

A: Der Einsatz der Verbände der Waffen-SS wurde durch die oberste militärische Führung befohlen. Ihre Lage wurde in der Führerlage entweder durch den Generalstab des Heeres oder durch den Wehrmachtführungsstab vorgetragen. Alle Befehle und Meldungen die Division betreffend gingen über die oberen Kommandobehörden des Heeres, denen diese Divisionen unterstellt waren. Himmler selbst wurde an diesen Dingen nur informatorisch beteiligt.

F: Was war die Aufgabe des Verbindungs-Offiziers der Waffen-SS beim Führer oder des Adjutanten der Waffen-SS beim Führer?

A: Die Dienststelle des Verbindungs-Offiziers der Waffen-SS beim Führer hat es erst gegeben, seit der SS-Gruppenführer Fegelein in diese kommandiert worden ist, also seit Herbst 1943. Er hatte die Aufgabe, Himmler über alle Dinge der Waffen-SS betreffend, die in der Lagebesprechung zur Sprache kamen, zu informieren. Ferner hatte er die Aufgabe, dem Führer jederlei Auskunft über sämtliche Verbände der Waffen-SS geben zu können. Der Adjutant der Waffen-SS beim Führer war für persönliche Aufträge des Führers da.

F: Waren Sie dabei, wenn Himmler Hitler Vorträge hielt?

A: Nein, ich war bei keinem Vortrag Himmlers beim Führer dabei. Er hielt diese Vorträge unter vier Augen. Wir selbst als seine Sachbearbeiter erfuhren aus Geheimhaltungsgründen nur das, was unser Sachgebiet betraf.

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F: Auf welchen Befehl beruhte diese Geheimhaltung eines Sachgebietes von dem anderen?

A: Das beruhte auf einen etwa mit Beginn des Krieges vom Führer selbst gegebenen Befehl zur strengen Geheimhaltung, der gerade bei uns im Stabe an jeder Zimmertüre angeschlagen war und zu einer strengen Scheidung des Sachgebietes führte.

F: Kennen Sie Befehle Himmler's an die Waffen-SS, die nach Ihrer Auffassung gegen Frieden, Humanität oder das Völkerrecht verstossen haben?

A: Nein, ich kenne keine derartigen Befehle. Himmler ist auch gar nicht befugt gewesen, derartige Befehle zu geben, da die Einheiten der Waffen-SS an das Heer angegliedert und den Ausbildungsbestimmungen und den Kampfanweisungen des Heeres unterworfen waren.

F: Welchen Einfluss hatte Himmler dann auf die Waffen-SS während des Krieges?

A: Himmler hatte das Recht personeller Entscheidungen, gerichtlicher Entscheidungen, die Truppenbetreuung, ein gewisses Aufsichtsrecht bei Ausbildung und Aufstellung von Waffen-SS-Einheiten im Heimatgebiet. Es ist der gleiche Einfluss den er ausübte, zum Beispiel im letzten Jahr des Krieges gegenüber den sogenannten Volksgrenadier-Divisionen, die ihm ebenfalls unterstellt waren und denen gegenüber er diese gleichen Rechte hatte.

F: Die Volksgrenadier-Divisionen waren keine Waffen-SS-Divisionen? Ist es so?

A: Die Volksgrenadier-Divisionen waren Divisionen des Heeres.

F: Wie viele Divisionen hatte die Waffen-SS zu Beginn des Krieges?

A: Keine. Die erste Division der Waffen-SS wurde im ersten Kriegsjahr, d. h. nach Beendigung des Polenfeldzuges aufgestellt.

F: Vorher gab es wohl eine Truppe die Verfügungstruppe hiess, die aber keine Waffen-SS Truppe ist.Können Sie das bestätigen?

A: Jawohl, es gab vor Beginn des Krieges die sogenannte SS-Verfügungstruppe. Die Waffen-SS ist aus dieser Truppe hervorgegangen.

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F: Welche Gründe führten zu der starken Vergrösserung der Waffen-SS? Lag dem ein bestimmter Plan zu Grunde?

A: Der Führer selbst hatte den Plan gehabt, die Waffen-SS in ein Verhältnis von 1:10 zum Heer zu bringen. Der Reichsführer hat zweifellos die Absicht gehabt, die Waffen-SS so stark wie möglich zu machen selbst unter Aufopferung der Auslesebestimmungen, die zunächst für die Waffen-SS bindend war. Die Truppe selbst widerstrebte dieser Vergrösserungstendenz deswegen, weil für die alten Divisionen jede Neuaufstellung Abgabe guten kriegserfahrenen Menschenmaterials und damit unerhörte Schwierigkeiten mit sich brachte.

F: Bestand eine Verbindung zwischen der allgemeinen SS und der Waffen-SS?

A: Nein. Es gab im Kriege praktisch keine allgemeine SS. Die Angehörigen der Waffen-SS kannten die allgemeine SS entweder gar nicht bezw. gehörten ihr nicht an. Es war also gar keine Möglichkeit, dass zwischen diesen beiden Organisationen eine Verbindung bestand. Auch die Tatsache, dass speziell im letzten Kriegsjahr die höheren SS= und Polizeiführer zu Generalen der Waffen-SS ernannt wurden, änderte an diesen Dingen nichts. Die Aufgaben der höheren SS= und Polizeiführer waren rein polizeiliche, sie hatten keine Befehlsbefugnis gegenüber der Waffen-SS. Ausgenommen 1.) Staatsnotstand, hierbei musste allerdings die Genehmigung zum Einsatz von Verbänden der Waffen-SS durch die höheren SS= und Polizeiführer von Führungshauptamt erteilt werden und 2.) bei Partisanenbekämpfungs=Angelegenheiten, hierbei musste die Erlaubnis zum Einsatz von Verbänden der Waffen-SS von der jeweils zuständigen Oberen Kommandobehörde des Heeres gegeben werden.

F: Kann man von einer Verbindung der Waffen-SS und der Allgemeinen SS sprechen, etwa weil alle diejenigen, welche freiwillig der Waffen-SS beitraten bis zu jenem Zeitpunkt Mitglieder der Allgemeinen SS waren?

A: Meiner Auffassung nach nein, denn die grösste Zahl der Angehörigen der Allgemeinen SS wurde zu Beginn des Krieges, als es also

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noch die SS-Verfügungstruppe gab vom Heer aufgesogen, weil die Verfügungstruppe viel zu klein war, um sämtliche Angehörige der Allgemeinen SS in sich aufnehmen zu können. Schon aus diesem Grunde kam nur ein kleiner Teil der Angehörigen der Allgemeinen SS zur SS-Verfügungstruppe.

F: Und die jungen Leute, die sich mit 17 Jahren von der Schule oder vom Arbeitsdienst zur Waffen-SS meldeten, waren die vorher Mitgleider der Allgemeinen SS?

A: Nein. Im allgemeinen nicht, da der Einzelne in die Allgemeine SS erst mit 18 Jahren eintreten durfte.

F: Und gilt dies um so mehr von den im Kriege zur Waffen SS eingezogenen jungen Leuten, viele von Ihnen waren nicht Mitglieder der Allgemeinen SS?

A: Für diese gilt das selbstverständlich, weil während des Krieges eine Zugehörigkeit zur Allgemeinen SS ruhte bezw. nicht gefordert wurde.

F: War die Mitgliedschaft in der nationalsozialistischen Partei etwa ausschlaggebend für die Einberufung oder für die freiwilligen Meldungen für die Waffen-SS?

A: Nein. Sie wurde weder als Voraussetzung zum Eintritt in die Waffen-SS verlangt noch wurde sie nach dem Eintritt in die Waffen-SS gefordert. Wenn jemand in der Partei war, so ruhte diese Parteizugehörigkeit während seiner Zugehörigkeit zur Waffen-SS.

F: Kann die Waffen-SS als besonderer politischer Repräsentant der Nazi-Ideologie angesehen werden?

A: Nein. Die Waffen-SS war ein soldatischer Eliteverband, der sich vor den anderen soldatischen Einheiten durch die Faktoren Freiwilligkeit, Auslese, straffe Erziehung und straffe Gerichtsbarkeit hervorhob. Eine besondere politische Erziehung, die über das Mass dessen hinausgeht, was in den anderen Verbänden geschult wurde, gab es bei der Waffen-SS nicht. Selbst die Faktoren Freiwilligkeit und Auslese, mussten im Laufe des Krieges aufgegeben werden, wegen der vom Führer selbst befohlenen Neuaufstellungen.

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F: Welche Einstellung nahm die Truppe der Waffen-SS zur Person Himmlers ein?

A: Der Grossteil, die Masse der Angehörigen der Waffen-SS kannte Himmler so viel wie gar nicht oder nur von kurzen Frontbesuchen, die er zeitweilig unternahm. Ihm wurde von Seiten der Truppe oft Unverständnis gegenüber den Belangen der Truppe vorgeworfen. Seine Reden die er manchmal vor den Offizier-Korps der Einheiten hielt, wurden soweit sie die ethischen Ideale der SS betrafen anerkannt, soweit sie sich mit der Entwicklung des Krieges speziell der Zukunftsentwicklung beschäftigten, wegen seiner oft angewandten Superlative und seiner Impulsivität kritisiert und manchmal abgelehnt. Er wurde im ganzen als truppenfremd bezeichnet. Er versuchte in diesen Reden öfters den Soldaten Polizeigedanken nahe zu bringen. Auch dieses fand Ablehnung bei der Truppe. Seine Anordnungen allgemeiner Art betrafen Äusserlichkeiten oder Nebensächlichkeiten und hatten deswegen keinerlei Einfluss auf eine Meinungsbildung innerhalb der Truppe.

F: Wissen Sie etwas über die Entstehungsgeschichte des besonderen Stabes Chef der Bandenkampfverbände?

A: Dieser Stab war speziell auf die Person des damaligen Obergruppenführers v. d. Bach zugeschnitten. Dieser Stab sollte das Ansehen und die Stellung des Obergruppenführers v. d. Bach den übrigen SS= und Polizeiführern gegenüber herausheben. Gleichzeitig beabsichtigte Himmler sich mit diesem Stab ein Korps-Kommando zu unterstellen und damit seine eigene militärische Stellung zu festigen.

F: War v. d. Bach auch General der Waffen-SS?

A: Jawohl, er hat meiner Erinnerung nach diesen Titel im Zusammenhang mit seiner Ernennung zum Chef der Bandenkampfverbände erhalten. Auch hierfür war, dem Grund der, dass seine Person in militärischer Hinsicht herausgehoben und für Verhandlungen mit den Obersten Kommando-Behörden des Heeres fähig gemacht werden sollte.

F: Welche Verbindung bestand zwischen dem Stabschef, "Bandenkampfverbände" und der Waffen-SS?

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A: Keine.

F: Welche Aufgabe hatte dieser Stab?

A: Dieser Stab hatte die Aufgabe erstens Himmler über die gesamte Lage der Partisanen Bekämpfung zunächst im Osten später auch auf anderen Kriegsschauplätzen zu unterrichten. Er hatte zweitens die Aufgabe Vorschriften über Partisanenbekämpfung und Erfahrungsberichte den Höheren SS= und Polizeiführern zugänglich zu machen.

CAPT.TUBRIDY: Wir werden jetzt eine Pause einschalten bis 2.15 Uhr und werden dafür bis 5.15 tagen.

(Die Kommission tritt um 14.15 zusammen).

Kreuzverhör-Fortsetzung!

MR.MG.ILWRAITH: Wer verhört zur Zeit den Zeugen? Würden Sie weitermachen.

DURCH DR.PELCKMANN:

F: Ich hatte Sie gefragt Herr Zeuge, welche Aufgaben der Chef der Bandenkampfverbände hatte?

A: Ich wiederhole noch einmal: Dieser Stab hatte die Aufgabe, Himmler über die Lage in der Partisanenbekämpfung, zunächst nur im Osten später auch auf anderen Kriegsschauplätzen zu unterrichten. Er hatte ferner Weisungen an die höeren SS= und Polizeiführer bezüglich der Durchführung der Partisanenbekämpfung zu geben. Er hatte Vorschriften und Erfahrungsberichte an die höheren SS= und Polizeiführer weiterzuleiten und schliesslich sollte dieser Stab in Ausnahmefällen führungsmässig in Erscheinung treten und zwar bei grösseren Unternehmungen oder an Nahtstellen usw. Letzteres ist allerdings nur ein einziges Mal in Erscheinung getreten.

F: Welches war der Zweck der Partisanenbekämpfung im Osten?

A: Die Kämpfe gegen die Partisanen im Osten waren Kämpfe gegen einen offiziellen Teil der roten Armee zum Schutze der rückwärtigen Verteidigungslinien.

F: Der Zeuge v. d. Bach hat behauptet, dass besonders minderwertige Truppen aufgestellt worden sind mit dem Zwecke, die Zivil-

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bevölkerung zu vernichten. Wissen Sie etwas darüber?

A: Derartige Einheiten sind mir nicht bekannt. Ich glaube auch nicht, dass derartige Einheiten existiert haben.

F: Vielleicht wird unter dem Begriff "minderwärtig" Bewährungseinheiten verstanden. Ist das möglich?

A: Der Begriff minderwärtig ist zunächst irreführend. Es hat selbstverständlich Bewährungseinheiten gegeben.

F: Der Verband Dirlewangen, war das eine Bewährungseinheit?

A: Jawohl, der Verband Dirlewangen war eine Bewährungseinheit, in der Häftlinge aus dem Konzentrationslager und später auch bestrafte Angehörige sämtlicher Teile der Wehrmacht ihre Bewährung nachweisen konnten.

F : War diese Truppe eine Einheit der Waffen SS oder der Allgemeinen SS ?

A : Nein, sie war weder eine Einheit der Waffen SS noch eine Einheit der Allgemeinen SS.

F : Ist Ihnen ein Befehl bekannt, wonach Delikte von Soldaten gegenueber der Zivilbevoelkerung nicht bestraft werden durften ?

A : Ich kenne einen derartigen Befehl nicht. Mir war im Gegenteil bekannt, dass in der Waffen SS Delikte gegenueber der Zivilbevoelkerung sogar hart bestraft wurden, dafuer sind mir Beispiele bekannt.

F : Was wissen Sie ueber die sogenannten Einsatzgruppen und Einsatz Kommandos ?

A: Die Einsatzkommandos waren Einrichtungen des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes im Osten. Ihre personliche Zusammensetzung und ihre Aufgaben sind mir unbekannt, da sie polizeilicher Art waren.

F : Wissen Sie etwas von der Verwendung von Einheiten und Formationen der Waffen SS bei diesen Einsatzkommandos ?

A : Mir ist bekannt, dass vor meiner Dienstzeit im Stabe, Himmler etwa 3 Kompanien mit etwa 6 - 800 Mann Waffen SS zu diesen Kommandos uebernommen worden sind mit der Aufgabe, den polizeilichen Kommandos einen militaerischen Schutz zu geben. Diese drei Kompanien sind restlos in den Aufgabenbereich des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes uebergegangen.

F : Hat Himmler sich Ihnen gegenueber geaeussert zur Judenfrage, insbesondere zur Loesung des Judenproblems ?

A : Jawohl, in Unterhaltungen hat er auf entsprechende Fragen von uns zu diesen Problem Stellung genommen in der Weise, dass er sagte : Die Juden in Europa sollten zunaechst im Osten in Ghettos angesiedelt werden und spaeter nach dem Kriege an einem anderen noch naeher zu bestimmenden Platz zusammengesiedelt werden. Er aeusserte damals etwas von Madagaskar und General-Gouvernement.

F : Waren Sie zugegen, wenn Himmler Konzentrationslager inspizierte ?

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A : Jawohl, ich habe ihn einige Male begleitet .

F : Fiel das mit Ihrer Aufgabe als Adjutant fuer die Waffen SS zusammen ?

A : Nein. Das hat mit meiner Aufgabe als Adjutant der Waffen-SS nichts zu tun. Wenn Himmler eine Reise machte, dann interessierte er sich fuer alle Aufgaben, die in diesem Gebiet seine verschiedene Taetigkeiten betrafen und ich begleitete ihn ueberall dorthin, wo er hinging. Er interessierte sich nicht nur fuer alle Aufgaben der SS, sondern fuer alle Aufgaben, die seine verschiedenen Aemter betrafen.

F : Wenn Himmler Besprechungen mit den Kommandanten in Lagern hatte, waren Sie da immer dabei ?

A : Nein, da war ich nicht dabei. Erstens fuehrte er Besprechungen stets allein und zweitens hatte ich mit diesem Aufgabenbereich nichts zu tun.

DR. PELKMANN: Ich habe keine Fragen mehr.

MR. ILWRAITH: Wird ein Kreuzverhoer gewuenscht ?

KRUZVERHOER :

DURCH COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES :

F : Wie alt sind Sie ?

A : Ich bin jetzt 3o Jahre alt.

F : Aus welchem Grund sind Sie in die SS eingetreten ?

A : Ich bin in die SS eingetreten, weil ich in ihr eine Organisation sah, die als ihr Ziel das Herausfuehren Deutschlands aus dem ungluecklichen Zustand proklamierte, in das wir nach dem Weltkrieg geraten waren.

F : Ausserdem war es doch auch noch eine Eliteeinheit der deutschen Armee ?

A : Die wurde es erst spaeter.

F : Und sie ist im allgemeinen von vielen als solche anerkannt worden ?

A : Das ist schwer zu sagen. Sie ist hauptsaechlich vom Gegner als Elite-Einheit angesehen worden. Wir selbst haben einen derartigen Ausdruck immer vermieden, um nicht eine Konkurrenz zwischen Heer und Waffen-SS herbeizufuehren.

F : Vielleicht habe ich mich nicht ganz klar ausgedrueckt. Der groesste Teil der deutschen Armee hat doch die SS als Elite-Truppe angesehen, nicht wahr ?

A : Meines Wissens, ja.

F : Wollen Sie zugeben, dass gegen Ende des Krieges eine ganze Anzahl Leute in die SS eingezogen wurde und dass sie stolz waren, in diese Elite-Einheit hereinzukommen ?

A : Jawohl.

F : Ich moechte Sie ueber Himmlers Einfluss auf die SS fragen. Haben Sie Himmler begleitet, als er im Oktober 1943 in Posten eine Rede hielt ?

A : Jawohl, ich habe ihn begleitet.

F : Er hat doch zu seinen SS-Generaelen gesprochen, nicht wahr?

A : Er hat zu einem Teil seiner hoechsten Fuehrer dort gesprochen. Fuehrer der Waffen-SS waren meiner Erinnerung nach nicht zugegen.

F : Wieviel SS-Divisionen [illegible] an der Ostfront im Jahre 1943 ?

A : Aus dem Gedaechtnis ist das schwer zu sagen. Ich kann mich an eine genaue Zahl nicht mehr erinnern. Ich glaube, es waren etwa 6 / 8. Ich darf vielleicht fragen, zu welchem Zeitpunkt, im Jahre 1943 ?

F : Koennen Sie sagen, wieviele SS-Divisionen 1941 - 1943 einschliesslich zu irgend einem Zeitpunkt an der Ostfront gedient haben ?

A : Insgesamt schetze ich diese Zahl auf hoechstens 15 - 2o.

F : Erinnern Sie sich, dass Himmler zu seinen Generaelen folgendes gesagt hat. Ich beziehe mich auf Dokument 1919-PS, US 17o. " was den Russen oder Tschechen passiert, interessiert mich nicht im geringsten. Was die Nationen in Bezug auf gutes Blut unserer Art bieten koennen, werden wir wenn noetig uns nehmen, indem wir ihnen ihre Kinder wegnehmen und sie hier bei uns aufziehen. Ob Nationen in Wohlstand leben oder auch zu Tode hungern, interessiert mich nur insofern, als wir sie als Sklaven fuer unsere Kultur brauchen. In anderer Beziehung interessiert es mich ueberhaupt nicht.

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Ob 10 000 russische Frauen beim Graben einer Panzersperre erschoepft zusammenbrechen, interessiert mich nur insoferne, als die Panzersperre fuer Deutschland fertiggestellt ist. Wir werden nie roh und herzlos sein, wenn es nicht notwendig ist." Haben Sie gehoert, wie er das gesagt hat ?

A : Ich bin waehrend dieser Rede nur zum Teil anwesend gewesen, da meine Organisationsaufgaben bei einem solchen Besuch es nicht erlaubten, immer gegenwaertig zu sein.

F : Sie sagen, dass Himmler nie Befehle ausgegeben hat, die gegen die internationalen Kriegsrechte und gegen die Humanitaet verstossen haben ?

A : Fuer die Waffen-SS hat er solche Befehle nicht gegeben.

F : Himmler sagt, wenn hunderttausende von russischen Frauen vor Erschoepfung zusammenbrechen, waehrend wir einen Tankabwehrgraben fuer Deutschland bauen; wuerden Sie sagen, dass das dem Gesetz der Menschlichkeit, wie es allgemein anerkannt ist, entspricht ?

A : Das ist kein Befehl von Himmler, sondern eine Wendung in einer Rede von Himmler.

F : Koennen wir nicht annehmen, dass Himmler Befehle an die SS gegeben hat, in denen er kriminelle Handlungen gegen die Humanitaet und die internationalen Rechte vorgeschlagen hat ?

A : Ich muss nochmals betonen, dass das kein Befehl an die SS gewesen ist.

F : Vor welchen SS-Fuehrern wurde die Rede gehalten ?

A : Bei dieser Zusammenkunft waren die hoeheren SS- und Polizeifuehrer sowie die Hauptamtschefs zugegen.

F : Sagen Sie etwa, dass keine SS-Gruppenfuehrer bei diesem Zusammentreffen zugegen waren, die Divisionen der Waffen-SS kommandierten ?

A : Ich kann mich an keinen einzigen erinnern und ausserdem glaube ich nicht, dass es moeglich war, fuer diese Rede irgend einen der Divisionskommandeure von ihren Divisionen von der Front zu rufen.

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F : Gut. In der naechsten Rede, die ich zitieren werde, ist die Frage nicht mehr offen, an wen er sich gewandt hat. Waren Sie in Charkow im April 1943, als er dort gesprochen hat ?

A : Ich war in Charkow aber nicht waehrend der ganzen Rede zugegen, aber er hat dort die Rede gehalten an die Kommandeure von drei SS-Divisionen.

F : Ja, das stimmt. Es waren nicht nur die SS-Generaele, sondern alle Kommandeure von den SS-Einheiten ?

A : Es waren, soviel ich mich erinnern kann, alle Kommandeure einschliesslich selbstaendige Bataillons-Kommandeure.

F : wir wollen sehen, was er hier sagt.

MR. MC. ILWRAITH: Ist dies dasselbe Dokument ?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES : Ja, es ist dasselbe Dokument, Seite 11, der englischen Uebersetzung.

DURCH COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

F : Koennen Sie sich daran erinnern, dass er das gesagt hat? Er spricht von Gebieten, die von Deutschland besetzt wurden und ich zitiere :

" Entweder muessen die Leute deportiert werden und fuer Deutschland schaffen oder sie werden im Kampf fallen."

A : Ich kann mich nicht an eine derartige Redewendung erinnern, aber es ist moeglich, dass er das gesagt hat.

F : Koennen Sie sich erinnern, dass er von Juden gesprochen hat und ich zitiere :

" Antisemitismus ist genau dasselbe wie Entlausung. Entlausung ist nicht eine Frage von Weltanschauung, sondern eine Frage der Reinlichkeit und in demselben Sinne war Antisemitismus nicht eine Frage der Weltanschauung fuer uns, sondern eine Frage der Sauberkeit, deren wir uns bald annehmen werden. Wir werden bald entlaust sein. Wir haben nur 3 000 Laeuse uebrig und dann ist die Sache in ganz Deutschland beendet." Warum hat er das zu den Kommandeuren der 3 SS Divisionen gesagt ?

A : Ich habe heute frueh schon gesagt, dass er solche Reden zum Anlass nahm, um zu den Fuehrern ueber die allgemeine Lage zu sprechen und auch ueber diejenigen Gebiete, die die Truppe nichts angingen.

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F : Wollen Sie sagen, dass er solche Sachen mit den Kommandeuren der 3 Divisionen besprochen hat, weil das eben gerade Dinge waren, die diese Divisionen nichts angingen ?

A : Jawohl, ich will damit sagen, dass er , da er sehr selten bei der Truppe war, diese Gelegenheit benutzte, um der Truppe eine Aufklaerung ueber die allgemeine Gesamtlage und ueber Aufgabengebiete zu geben, welche die Truppe als solche nicht beruehrten .

F : Koennen Sie uns sagen, warum er diese Sachen der SS hat erklaeren wollen, wenn bis jetzt noch niemand vor diesem Tribunal war, der von dem ganzen gehoert hat ?

A : Die Aufgaben die Himmler in dieser Rede beruehrte, gehoeren zu den Aufgaben seiner Person und er hat immer die Absicht bzw. den Wunsch gehabt, in der Zukunft die verschiedenen Aufgabengebiete, die seine Person zu bearbeiten hatte, organisatorisch zusammenwachsen zu lassen.

F : Wollen wir uns jetzt einem Fall zuwenden, wo er sich tatsaechlich an Mitglieder der Waffen-SS wendet. Waren Sie damals im Mai 1943 bei seiner Rede in Metz zugegen ?

A : Nein, im April 1943 war er nicht in Metz.

F : Dieser Tag wird genannt " Der Tag von Metz ". Ich bin mir nicht ganz klar darueber, aber er sprach zu den Offizieren der SS-Leibstandarte.

A : Ich glaube, das war im Jahre 1941. Ich selbst war dabei nicht anwesend.

F : Sehr gut. Es war im Jahre 1941. Ich moechte Ihnen ein paar Zeilen vorlesen. Es ist Dokument 1918 - PS, US 504. Ich zitiere :

" Sehr oft sagt sich der Angehoerige der Waffen-SS und diese Gedanken kamen mir heute so, wie ich da draussen diese sehr schwierige Taetigkeit ansah, die die Sicherheitspolizei, unterstuetzt von euren Leuten, - die ihnen sehr gut helfen - hat, das Herausbringen dieses Volkes hier. Genau dasselbe hat bei 40° Kaelte in Polen stattgefunden, wo wir Tausende, Zehntausende und

Hunderttausende wegtransportieren mussten, wo wir die Haerte haben mussten - Sie sollen das hoeren - sollen das aber auch gleich wieder vergessen - Tausende von fuehrenden Polen zu erschiessen. Wo wir die Haerte haben mussten, denn sonst wuerde spaeter sich das an uns raechen." Ende des Zitates.

F : War das die Arbeiter der Waffen-SS und insbesondere der Leibstanderte Adolf Hitlers, Hunderttausende zu deportieren und Tausende zu erschiessen ?

A : Keineswegs. Auch das ist eine Unterrichtung ueber Vorgaenge die im Osten stattgefunden haben, waehrend die Division sich im Westen befand. Ich habe betont, dass er bei Erlaeuterungen derartiger Vorgaenge von einem Stichwort-Konzept aus ausgehend, sprach und diese Reden wurden im allgemeinen innerhalb der Truppe abgelehnt.

F: Aber er sagt doch hier, das ist die Taetigkeit, welche die Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler ausfuehrt, wodurch sie die Sicherheitspolizei in grossem Masse unterstuetzt.
Warum sollte er das sagen, wenn das nicht wahr ist ?

A : Er hat gesagt, dass das die Aufgabe der Sicherheitspolizei war und anscheinend wurde ihr von der Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler geholfen. Eine Hilfe kann hier nur in der Form geschehen sein, dass z.B. Fahrzeuge zur Verfuegung gestellt wurden oder aehnliches. Die Truppe selbst hatte mit derartigen Aufgaben nichts zu tun.

F : Ich frage Sie nun zum letzten Mal, warum hat er gesagt, dass die Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler in grossem Masse bei dieser Arbeit ausgeholfen hat ?

A : Ja, ich sagte ja schon, es ist moeglich, dass sie dazu Fahrzeuge und aehnliche Hilfsmittel zur Verfuegung gestellt hat.

F : Ich moechte Sie ueber einen anderen Punkt befragen. Zunaechst moechte ich Ihnen einen Ausschnitt aus einem Protokoll der Unterredung zwischen Goering und dem Duce im Oktober 1942 vorlesen. Es ist Dokument D 729, GB 281.

" Der Reichsmarschall schilderte dann, wie Deutschland bei Partisanenkaempfe vorgehe. In den betreffenden Gebieten wuerde zunaechst das gesamte Vieh und die Lebensmittel weggefuehrt, um den

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Partisanen auf diese Weise die Ernaehrungsgrundlage wegzufuehren. Die Maenner und Frauen wuerden in Arbeitslager und die Kinder in Kinderlager gebracht und die Doerfer niedergebrannt.

So hat man z.B. in den weiten Waldgebieten von Bialowitz die Sicherung von Bahnen durchgefuehrt. Kamen Attentate vor, so wurden in den Ortschaften die gesamte maennliche Bevoelkerung auf der eine Seite und die Frauen auf der anderen Seite aufgestellt. Den Frauen wurde gesagt, dass alle Maenner erschossen wuerden, wenn sie nicht angeben, wer von den Maennern nicht in den Ort gehoere. Um ihre Maenner zu retten, bezeichneten die Frauen immer die Nichtortsansaessigen. Deutschland hat die Erfahrung gemacht, dass Soldaten im allgemeinen schwer zur Ergreifung derartiger Massnahmen zu bringen seien. Angehoerige der Partei verrichteten diese Aufgabe viel haerter und besser. Daher kaempften auch Armeen, die weltanschaulich gefestigt wurden, wie die Deutschen (oder auch die russischen) viel haerter als andere. Auch die SS, die Garde der alten Parteikaempfer, die zum Fuehrer persoenlich Bindungen haben und eine Auslese darstellen, bestaetigen diesen Grundsatz. Hierher gehoert auch, dass kommunistische Kommissare sich selten freiwillig ergeben haben." Ende des Zitats.

F : Warum hat Goering das gesagt, wenn die Partisanenbekaempfung nicht eine Arbeit der SS war ?

A : Das sind rein propagandistische Aeusserungen Goerings, die insofern mit den Tatsachen nicht uebereinstimmen, als die angefuehrten Merkmale : Bindung an die Person des Fuehrers und Auslese sich hoechstens auf die ersten Divisionen der Waffen-SS beziehen koennten. Diese aber waren nie in Bandenbekaempfung, sondern stets in vorderster Front eingesetzt.

F : Nennen Sie das gute Propaganda ? Ist das die Art Propaganda, die Sie billigen ?

A : Ich habe ueberhaupt keine Propaganda gerne.

COLONLL GRIFFTTH JONES: Ich habe keine weiteren Fragen mehr.

MR. MC ILWRAITH: Wird noch ein Kreuzverhoer gewuenscht ? Wollen Sie den Zeugen nochmals hoeren, Dr. Pelckmann ?

DR. PELCKMANN: Ich habe keine weiteren Fragen mehr.

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MR.MCILWRAITH: Der Zeuge kann gehen und er naechste Zeuge kann hereinkommen.

Das Vorstehende ist eine wahre und richtige Niederschrift der Aussagen vom 25. Juni 1946.

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